



Fact Sheet



Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site

Herculaneum, Missouri

Site Update

Due to a citizen complaint, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources collected a dust sample next to a curb in the road at the corner of Broad and Station Streets in Herculaneum, Missouri. On September 5, 2001, the department received confirmed results that the dust sample was contaminated with lead at 300,000 parts per million, which is far above established health levels.

Based on this sampling, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources performed more screening in other areas of town, which indicate that the area around Broad and Station Streets is the highest concentration in town. Lead concentrations decrease with distance away from the Doe Run Company's Herculaneum Smelter, on Main Street.

The lead dust in the streets is believed to be coming from trucks hauling lead concentrate into Doe Run. The extremely elevated lead levels appear to be isolated to the haul road in and out of town . . . Station

PUBLIC MEETING

You are invited to attend a public meeting concerning the Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site

The meeting will be held on
Wednesday, September 12, 2001
7:00 p.m.
Herculaneum High School
Gymnasium
Herculaneum, Missouri

Street, Brown Street, Joachim Street, and Main Street . . . and approximately the first 50 yards of adjacent side streets. Sidewalks and some grassy areas along the haul routes also show elevated lead levels over what was expected to be present.

The Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry consider these lead concentrations high enough to warrant emergency action. The agencies contacted the Doe Run Company,

who agreed to take immediate steps to remove extreme lead concentrations from the streets and sidewalks of Herculaneum.

Doe Run began a road cleaning process on Saturday, September 1, 2001. The Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are providing oversight. The cleaning process includes power washing and vacuuming the haul road, adjacent side streets, and other highly contaminated areas associated with truck unloading within and adjacent to their facility, as well as establishing new truck washing procedures. Other actions will include characterization and cleanup of residential yard contamination and air monitoring along the haul roads.

Health Information

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services believe that additional sampling needs to be done to further identify the extent of the lead concentrate contamination, primarily in residential yards, parks, schools and other high child impact areas.

The screening has shown some high levels of lead in some of the city parks. At this time, we would recommend children who want to play in the parks be taken to the Crystal City park until more information and cleanup activities have taken place. In other areas, screening data have shown lead in soil at levels far above established health levels. Even limited hours of play in these areas could cause an increased risk of negative health impacts. Once additional sampling has been done, we can better

assess the potential health impacts of using these public areas.

In addition to actions being taken by the state and federal governmental agencies, there are some things you can do to help reduce your and your children's exposure. It is advisable to take the following actions:

- # have children play on solid grass cover in yards or parks,
- # remove shoes before entering your home,
- # do not allow children to play in the street or on curbs,
- # encourage children not to put their hands in their mouths,
- # encourage frequent hand and face washing before eating, drinking and sleeping.

In your home, dust or dirt containing lead can be removed by wet cleaning floors, windowsills, cabinets, toys, and other places children may play. Wet-clean by using warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner or a cleaner made specifically for lead. To remove lead from carpets, wet shampoo often. HEPA vacuums are also effective at removing lead dust particles found in the carpet.

Most often children are poisoned by swallowing dust, dirt, or paint containing lead. To reduce lead intake, eat small, frequent meals that are high in iron and calcium and low in fat. Foods such as milk, cheese, ice cream, eggs, chicken, liver, chili, spinach, greens, beans, and whole

grain breads will help to prevent lead poisoning and lower lead levels. Foods rich in vitamin C will enhance the absorption of iron from plant foods. Add a food or drink with vitamin C to each meal. Do not serve hot or iced tea. Tea keeps the body from taking in iron.

Additional Information

Has your child been tested for lead poisoning? Please contact your private physician or the Jefferson County Health Department at 636- 789-3372 to get your child tested.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2001.

The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the cleanup of the contaminated streets and the truck unloading areas within and adjacent to the Doe Run facility and to answer any questions you might have. Staff from health agencies will address health issues related to the cleanup action and the elevated concentrations of lead.

The Department of Health and Senior Services will be available immediately following the Public Meeting on September 12th to address individual health concerns.

For more information please contact:

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Missouri Department of Natural Resources

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7

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